

# Home For The Holidays



# *Christmas Trees*



- Many artificial trees are fire resistant. If you buy one, look for a statement specifying this protection.

A fresh tree will stay green longer and be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. To check for freshness, remember:



# *Christmas Trees*



A fresh tree is green.

Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.

When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.

The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin.

A shower of falling needles shows that the tree is too dry.





# *Christmas Trees*

- Place trees away from fireplaces, radiators, and other heat sources.
- Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors.
- Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.
- Keep a fire extinguisher handy in the tree area.
- Remove the tree promptly if it becomes dry.



# *Decorative Lights*

- Inside or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety. Identify these by the label from an independent testing laboratory.



- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard



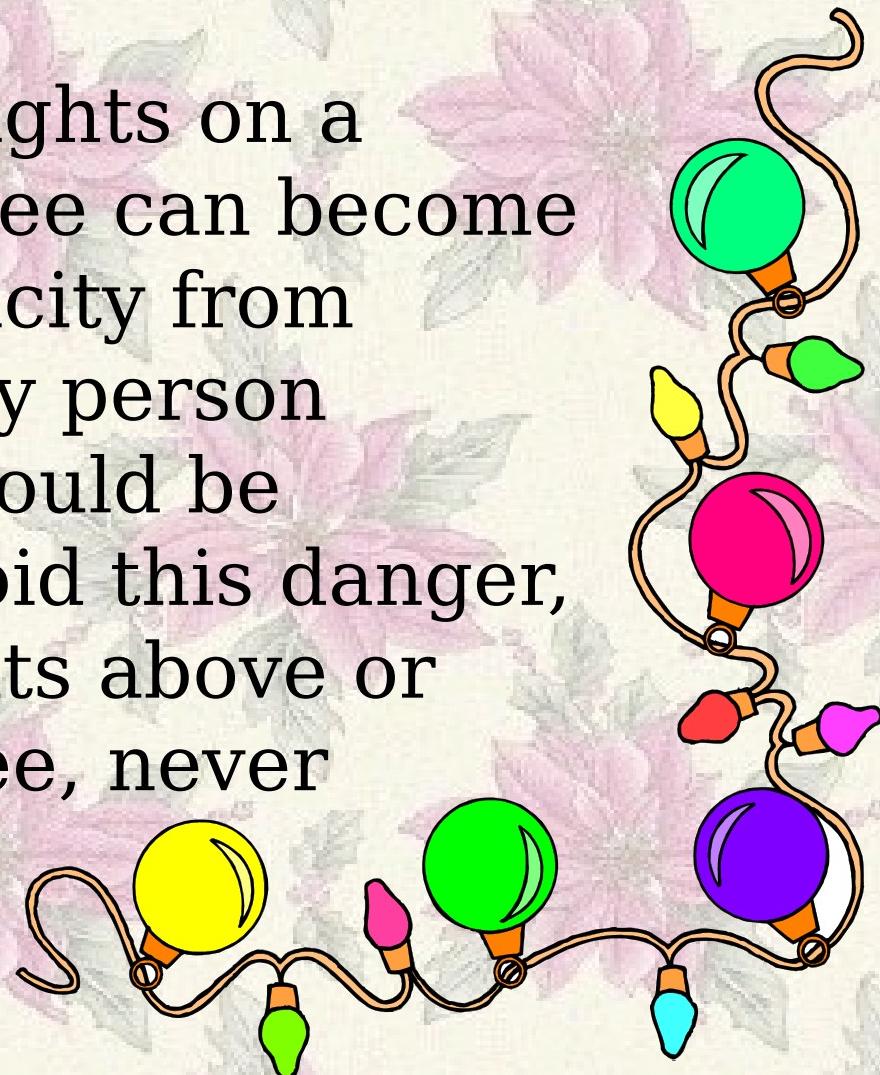
# *Decorative Lights*

- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect them from wind damage.
  - Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
  - Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations when you go to bed or leave the



# *Decorative Lights*

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and any person touching a branch could be electrocuted! To avoid this danger, use colored spotlights above or beside a metallic tree, never fastened onto it!



# *Decorative Lights*

- Keep "bubbling" lights away from children. These lights with their bright colors and bubbling movement can tempt curious children to break candle-shaped lights.

The resulting broken glass is dangerously sharp and allows the escape of the liquid which contains a hazardous chemical.



# *Candle Safety*

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) found residential fires sparked by candles are twice as likely to occur in December than any other month in the year.



# *Candle Safety*

- According to the National Fire Protection Agency, candle fires account for 2.4% of all fires and result in 6% of total injuries from fires and 3% of all fatalities from fires.



# *Candle Safety*

- Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Place candles well away from curtains, bedding and other flammable materials.



- Keep candles away from table decorations, trees and other greenery.
- Don't place lighted candles in windows.

# *Candle Safety*

- Don't use candles to decorate a tree.
- Extinguish tapers when less than two inches tall.
- Extinguish all candles before going to sleep.
- Always keep burning candles up high, out of the reach of children.



# *The Fireplace*

- Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from the fireplace area.
- Check to see that the flue is open.
- Before closing the flue, be sure that the fire is out completely.



# *The Fireplace*

- Use care with "fire salts" which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals which can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation or vomiting if eaten.



- Have your chimney inspected at least once a year and cleaned if necessary. Creosote, a chemical substance that forms when wood burns, builds up in chimneys and

# *The Fireplace*



- Always use a fire screen and only burn material appropriate for fireplaces. Avoid burning trash or paper which can float up the chimney and onto the roof or yard.
- Install at least one carbon monoxide detector and a smoke detector in your home.
- Deposit ashes in a metal container. Remove from the home because they

# *Portable and Other Space Heaters*

- Place all space heaters at least 36 inches away from flammable materials, including wallpaper, bedding, clothing, pets, and people.
- Do not leave space heaters unattended or in use while sleeping.
- Check electrical space heaters for fraying or splitting wires and overheating.



# *Portable and Other Space Heaters*

- Let a professional repair person correct all problems before operating the space heater.
- Always use the proper fuel for liquid fueled heaters.
- Be sure the heater is properly vented. All space heaters should bear the label of an independent testing laboratory.
- Never place articles for drying over space heaters.

# *Holiday Cooking*

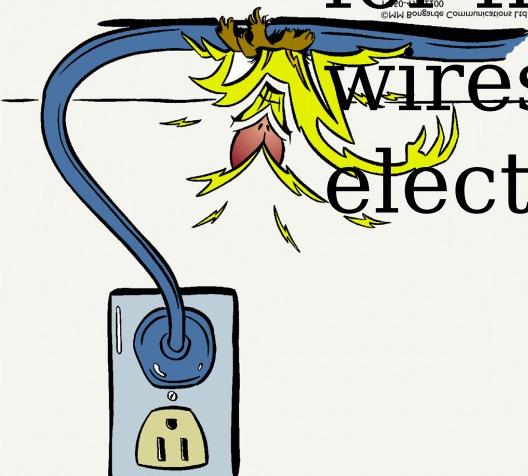
- Never leave the kitchen unattended when something is cooking on the stove. Always turn pot handles inward to prevent small children from reaching a hot pan.



- Don't store items on the stove top - they could catch fire.

# *Holiday Cooking*

- Keep kitchen appliances clean and in good condition. Turn off appliances after use.
- Don't overload electrical outlets. Check appliances for frayed or cracked wires. Do not use electrical appliances in or near water.



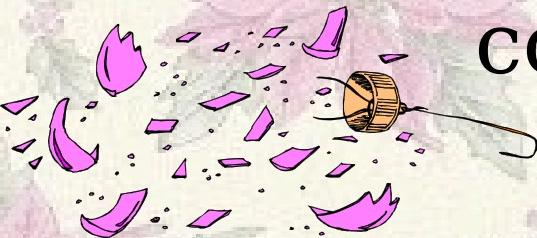
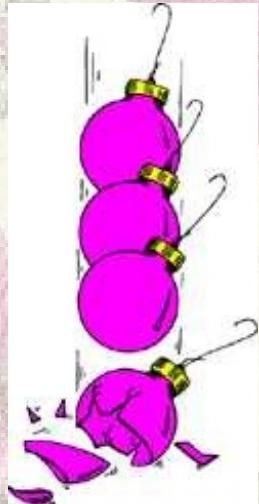
# *Holiday Cooking*

- Avoid loose-fitting clothing when cooking such as long open sleeves which can easily be ignited by hot burners.
- Be sure kitchen is well ventilated or keep a window cracked to help prevent the build-up of carbon monoxide from gas cooking appliances.
- Equip kitchen area with smoke detectors and fire extinguishers.



# *Decorations/Wrapping Paper*

- When making paper decorations, look for materials labeled noncombustible or flame-resistant.
- Never place trimmings near open flames or electrical connections.



# *Decorations/Wrapping Paper*

- Remove all wrapping paper from the tree and fireplace areas immediately after presents are opened.
- Do not burn papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.



# *Children's Toys*

- Never hang toys with long strings, cords, loops or ribbons in cribs or playpens where children may become entangled. Remove crib gyms from the crib once the child can pull up on hands and knees; some children have strangled when they fell on crib gyms stretched across the crib.



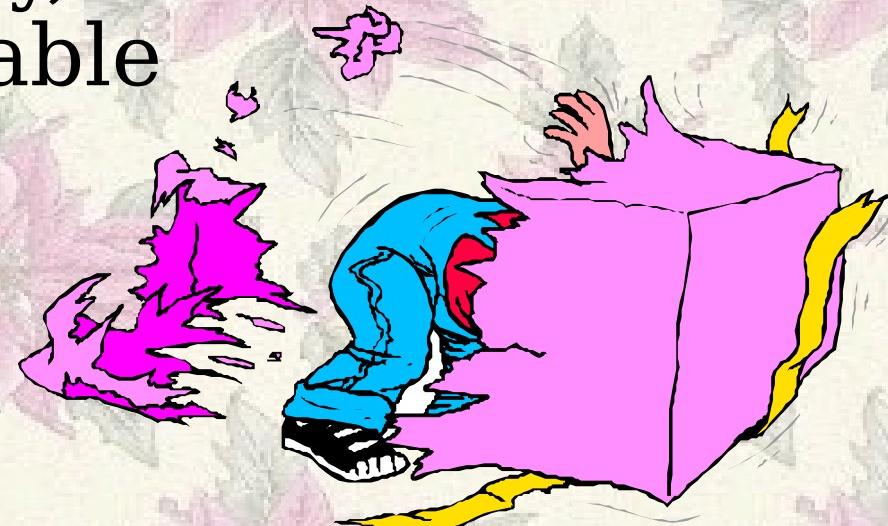
# *Children's Toys*



- Broken toys may have dangerous points or prongs.
- Stuffed toys may have wires inside, which could cut or stab if exposed.
- Even a toy as simple as a balloon, when uninflated or broken, can choke or suffocate a young child.
- Keep toys designed for older children out of the hands of little ones.

# *Children's Toys*

- Children should never be permitted to play with adult lawn darts or other hobby or sporting equipment that has sharp points.
- Children should be taught how to use electric toys properly, and adult supervision is ~~advisable~~  
~~supervision is not advisable~~ toys can shock or burn if they are improperly constructed, incorrectly wired,



# *Children's Toys*

- Check all toys periodically for breakage and potential hazards. On wooden toys, sand any surfaces that may have become splintered or edges that have become sharp.
- When repainting toys and toy boxes, avoid using leftover paint unless it was purchased recently. Older paints may contain more lead than new paint.



# *Children's Toys*

- Teach children to put their toys away safely on reachable shelves or in a toy chest.
- Toy boxes, too, should be checked for safety. Use a toy chest with a lid that will stay open in any position to which it is raised, and will not fall on a child unexpectedly.



# *Shopping Safety/Parking Lots*

## In The Parking Lot

The mere act of parking your car in a busy shopping mall parking lot can be a high-risk adventure. To protect yourself:

- Go slow. Drive defensively and be patient.
- Watch for illuminated taillights to spot cars pulling out.
- Improper backing ranks as the top cause of parking lot mishaps.



# *Shopping Safety/Parking Lots*

- Allow sufficient space when you pull into the spot.
- Be prepared to yield the right of way.
- Always assume the pedestrian does not see you. Without direct eye contact, you can't be sure. Be extra careful at night.
- Drive no faster than 5 to 10 miles an hour in parking areas, even if they are relatively empty. Use your turn signals.

# *Shopping Safety/Parking Lots*

- *Walking To And From*
- Try to park in well-lighted areas as close to the front door of the store as possible.
- Avoid shopping alone.
- If you are worried about walking to your car alone, ask a security guard or a store employee to accompany you.
- Have your keys in your hand



# *Shopping Safety/Parking Lots*

- Body language is important. Look confident and aware of your surroundings, as opposed to preoccupied with your head down and overloaded with packages.
  - Glance under the car when you are approaching it. Check the back seat before you enter.
  - Lock the doors immediately



# *Shopping Safety/Parking Lots*

- Be particularly aware of your surroundings while using an ATM.
- If you are accosted by a robber, scream.
- On icy surfaces, wear shoes with good traction and look where you're going.



# *Shopping Safety/ Inside The Store*

- *Escalators*
- Do not place packages on the steps or balance them on the handrails.
- Don't take carts, strollers, or wheelchairs on an escalator.
- Never allow children to ride an escalator unattended. Do not let them sit or drag their feet along an escalator's side.
- Hold on to the handrail.
- If your hands are full, take the elevator.

# ***Shopping Safety/ Inside The Store***

- *Shopping Carts*
- There are about 25,000 trips to emergency rooms each year due to falls from shopping carts, most of them involving young children.
- Shop where they have supervised play areas.
- Have your child wear a safety belt in the cart.
- Don't let kids hang on the carts.
- Carts with infant carriers are more likely to tip over due to a high center of gravity.

# *Holiday Party Time*

- As host(ess) of a party, you can be held legally responsible for injuries or damages that occur as a result of the alcohol you have served, even after your guests leave.
- You can reduce the risk to yourself and your guests by attempting to keep the drinking to a moderate level.



# *Holiday Party Time*

- Find out how guests will be going home from your party. Be prepared to take away car keys.
- Promote the use of designated drivers and encourage guests to leave their cars at home and take public transportation, cabs, or walk.
- Have cash and phone numbers ready for taxi companies.



# *Holiday Party Time*

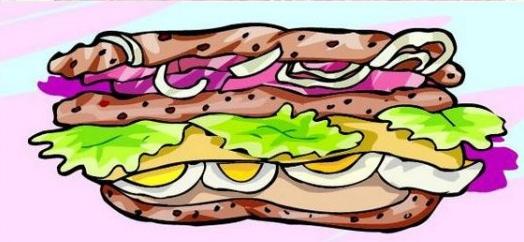
- When your guests arrive by car, collect their car keys. That way, when they are ready to leave, you can give them a second opinion on whether they are sober enough to drive home by themselves.
- Serving food with drinks and providing non-alcoholic beverages will help people stay sober as well.



# Holiday Party Time



- Stop serving alcohol at least one hour before the party is over. Make sure coffee, alcohol-free drinks and food are constantly available. Only time allows the body to consume and rid itself of alcohol.
- Plan to deal with any guest who drinks too much.  
Before the party gets going, ask someone reliable to help you keep things under control.



# Holiday Party Time

- Mix and serve drinks yourself or designate a bartender instead of having an open bar. Avoid serving doubles and keep shot glasses, jiggers or self-measuring one-ounce bottle spouts handy to measure drinks. Guests are less likely to over-drink when standard measures are used.
- If you serve an alcoholic punch, use a non-carbonated base such as fruit juice. The body absorbs alcohol faster



# Holiday Party Time

- Always serve food along with alcohol. It is always better to eat while drinking than to drink on an empty stomach. High protein and high carbohydrate foods like cheese, meats, veggies,



breads and light dips are especially good. They taste great and do not make guests as thirsty as salty, sweet or greasy foods do.

# *Holiday Party Time*

- If you observe a guest drinking too much:
  - engage him/her in conversation to slow down drinking.
  - offer high protein food like pizza, shrimp or spareribs.
  - offer to make the next drink using less alcohol, mixing it with a non-carbonated base or give them no alcohol at all.
- Do not plan physical activities when you serve alcohol.  
Mishaps occur more often after drinking



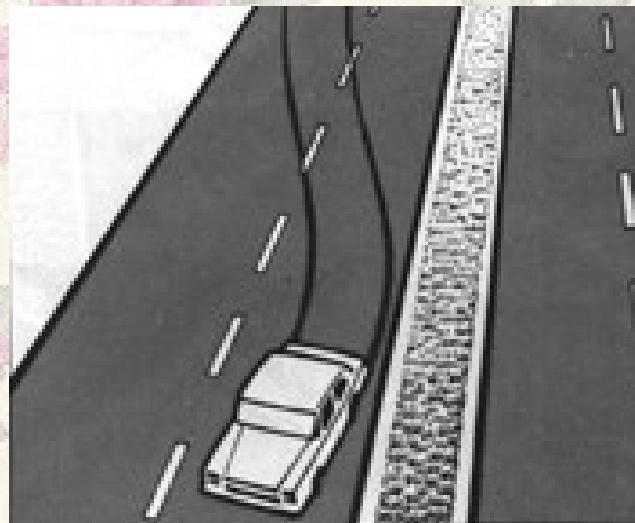
# Impaired Drivers

- Your best defense against a drunk driver is to wear your safety belt and be sure children are properly secured in child safety seats.
- Never ride in a car with someone who has been drinking -- call a cab or ask a friend to drive you home.
- Report drunk drivers immediately to area law enforcement with the license plate number, description of the vehicle,



# Impaired Drivers

- Keep a safe distance from anyone driving erratically and do not try to intervene yourself.



*Stay Safe This  
Holiday and  
Make Another  
Year Count!!*

